

GUMNER, CHARLES

DRAWER 10B

REFORMERS

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Abraham Lincoln and Reformers

Charles Sumner

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

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A GREAT DISASTER.—Charles Sumner said in the United States Senate, that the expulsion of a single negro from a city passenger car was more disastrous to our cause than the loss of a great battle.

Ex-Governor Dennison, who presided over the Baltimore Convention, declared in the presence of Hon. Eli P. Norton, of New York, that "Gen. McClellan was not removed for any military reason, but because he would be the Democratic candidate for the Presidency."

"The widow-makers" organs try to make the people believe that the war is nearly over. Gen. Sherman don't think so, for he says that "there may be many years of military operations from Atlanta as a base." The truth is, on Lincoln's policy the war is unending. If re-elected, he will call for 500,000 more men in thirty days.

AUGUST BELMONT CONFIDENT OF McCLELLAN'S ELECTION.—A special from Washington to the *Herald* says: "It is a subject of much comment in political circles that Mr. August Belmont, who has hitherto been extremely cautious about risking anything upon the Presidential election, is now offering to bet heavily upon the election of McClellan."

Mr. Lincoln's honesty we don't hear much of in this campaign. "Honest Old Abe" has few honest men to defend his honesty. There is some cutlery now in Washington, not now in the White House, which would cut the weazands of any men who undertook to praise the honesty of "Old Abe."

"Russell, of the *Times*," in his "Diary," March 31, 1861, relating conversations with eminent men at Washington, writes: "I walked home with Mr. Sumner to his rooms, and heard some of his views, which

are not so sanguine as are those of Mr. Seward, and I thought I detected a desire to let the Southern States go out with their slavery if they so desired it. Mr. Chase, by the way, expressed sentiments of the same kind, more decidedly the other day."

What Lincoln said to Senator Wade, when the latter called on him:

"Sit down, Wade, I want to tell you a story."

What Wade said to Lincoln:

"D—n you and your stories too! If gentlemen can never approach you on matters of grave public moment, without being met with dirty stories, I want no more to do with you."

And he left.

The moral, upright and sober Chandler, whose drunken brawlings were the disgrace of the closing hours of the last Senate, spoke at Patterson, N. J., on Monday night. The following gem is from the first part of his speech:

You Copperhead traitors of Patterson, I want you to take your hats and leave before I begin, for I am going to give it to you, and I am going to seal your lips forever against Lincoln and his party, you Copperhead traitors you!

Enu Pa Oban. ...

Lincoln on Sumner.

A gentleman tells the following new anecdote of Lincoln :

As I rose to leave Mr. Lincoln picked up and handed me a note to look at. I recognized Senator Sumner's handwriting as I took it, and was not, therefore, particularly surprised to find it alarmish and mysterious in tone, bidding Mr. Lincoln, for particular reasons, to be very careful how he went out alone at night. I saw that Mr. Lincoln watched me while I read the note, and I, perhaps, may have expressed in my countenance an opinion of the communication which I did not think it civil to put into words, merely reiterating, as I put it back on the table, my own convictions that there was nothing to fear in Washington, and no occasion for measures likely to influence the public unfavorably in other parts of the country. As I arose to go Mr. Lincoln pulled himself together up out of the rocking chair in which he had packed himself, and, scanning me good-naturedly for one moment, said, very abruptly: "You never put backs with Sumner, did you?" I supposed I looked as much surprised as I felt; but I laughed and said that I did not think that I ever had done so. "Well, I suppose not," he said; and then hesitating a moment, went on: "When he was in here, I asked him to measure with me; and do you know he made a little speech about it." I tried to look civilly curious, and Mr. Lincoln, with an indescribable glimmer all over his face, continued: "Yes," he said, "he told me that he thought this 'was a time for uniting our fronts and not our backs before the enemies of the country,' or something like that. It was very fine. But I reckon the truth was," and at this point I was compelled against my will to laugh aloud, "I reckon the truth was he was afraid to measure!" And at this he looked down with some complacency on his own really indescribable length of limb. "He is a good piece of man, though, Sumner," he added, half quizzically, half apologetically, "and a good man. I have never had much to do with bishops down where we live; but, do you know, Sumner is just my idea of a bishop."—[Memphis Avalanche.

March 1899

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HE DEFENDED KANSAS.

Wichita Mail & Free Press
Twenty-five Years Ago Charles Sumner Died--A Letter Which He Wrote.

Charles Sumner, the great American statesman and orator, died twenty-five years ago on the 11th of this month. George J. Remsburg of Atchison, Kan., has in his large private collection of antiquities, an interesting and valuable relic of Charles Sumner. It is a letter written by Sumner to Hon. Wm. H. Herndon, Abraham Lincoln's old law partner, congratulating Illinois on the election of Lyman Trumbull to the United States senate. The letter is as follows:

"Senate Chamber, 10th March, '56.

"My Dear Sir: I thank you for your kind letter and congratulate you on the noble effort of your new senator. At the bound he has sprung to a conspicuous place in the senate and before the country. My heart is full of gratitude to him and my calmest judgment awards to his speech yesterday the highest praise as a masterly response to the fallacious report of Douglass. Yours sincerely,
CHARLES SUMNER."

The letter was donated to the Remsburg private collection by Mr. Herndon a short time before his death, and the Mail and Breeze publishes it for the first time. It is enclosed in the original envelope bearing the postmark, "Washington, D. C., April 9, 1856," and is yellow with age. The letter was written only about two months before Preston S. Brooks, a member of congress from South Carolina, assaulted Sumner in the senate chamber. In May, 1856 Sumner made in the senate an eloquent speech on the contest in Kansas and on the encroachment of the slave-power. Some of the passages of this speech excited the anger of Brooks, who, without warning, assaulted Sumner while sitting in his seat in the senate chamber on May 22. Brooks beat Sumner over the head with his cane until he was insensible. Sumner was so severely injured that he was disabled from public service for several years. He went to Europe in March, 1857, for the benefit of his health and to consult eminent physicians in regard to his injuries. While in Europe he was almost unanimously re-elected to the senate. He returned home in the fall of 1857, but in the following spring made another voyage to Europe and remained over a year under the treatment of Brown-Sequard, and other medical men in Paris. In 1859 he returned home and resumed his seat in the senate, though he still suffered from the brutal attack that was made upon him. In fact, to the hour of his death he suffered more or less from the effects of those merciless blows.

In the Fay collection of a million items, there is an original letter written by Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts to William H. Herndon, Lincoln's law partner, commending the first speech of Lyndon Trumbull in the U. S. Senate. It is as follows:

Senate Chamber, 16th of March, '56.

My Dear Sir: I thank you for your kind letter and congratulate you on the noble effort of your new senator. At one bound he has sprung to a conspicuous place in the senate and before the country. My heart is full of gratitude to him and my calmest judgment awards to his speech of yesterday the highest praise as a masterly response to falacious report of Douglas.

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES SUMNER.

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STRONG MAN. Charles Sumner, senator from Massachusetts, was a scholar and hard-working legislator who opposed slavery. His tongue-lashings of Douglas and Andrew Johnson helped make the formation of the new Republican Party inevitable, played a big role in Lincoln's success.

Charles Sumner



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